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## **Report to the California Film Commission**

The Motion Picture/Entertainment Unit (MP&E) was created in July of 1987 by the Governor and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in response to the motion picture and television industry's concern of over-regulation and inconsistent enforcement of fire prevention requirements. The unit serves as a liaison and works concurrently with the California Film Commission (CFC) to support their economic development efforts in retaining the film industry in California.

Under the direction of the Chief of the Fire Engineering Division, the MP&E unit is responsible for the development and delivery of a comprehensive fire engineering, education, and enforcement program, which offers the following:

### **Pyrotechnic operator licensing support**

The OSFM currently licenses over 2000 pyrotechnic operators in the State of California. Over 1000 are issued in the field of motion picture and television production.

### **Pyrotechnic special effects permit**

The OSFM currently issues special effects permits for all state-owned and state-operated properties and evaluates film permits from the CFC for fire and life safety concerns.

### **Special Investigations**

As required by law, the OSFM investigates all pyrotechnic related accidents within the State of California.

### **Education**

The OSFM offers specialized training in motion picture and special effects safety. This training is widely recognized and is attended by the California fire service, other State and governmental agencies, as well as by professionals within the motion picture industry.

### **Liaison**

The MP&E unit is the liaison between the California fire service and the motion picture industry. OSFM staff work with Fire Prevention Officers' groups, Film Liaison in California Statewide (FLICS), the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), industry associations, location managers, stunt performers, safety directors and other public and governmental agencies.

Some of the highlights of the MP&E Unit are:

**SB1781 (Flamethrower)**

Senate Bill 1781 required the SFM to develop regulations governing the use of flame thrower devices. This bill was initiated by the Motion Picture Special Effect Association (ASEPO) because these devices are used in the motion picture industry. The OSFM currently has a working committee made up of motion picture, law enforcement and fire personnel whose responsibility is to write regulations to ensure the motion picture industry can safely use these devices in the course of business.

**Safety Advisory for Fire & FX in Entertainment committee (SAFFE)**

SAFFE is a professional partnership of the fire service and the entertainment industry that provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information that promotes safety, protection of life, property, and the environment within which the entertainment industry. Al Adams, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal, is the co-chair of this committee. The Committee is working to have a positive effect on motion picture productions, as well as the economic impacts of fire and life safety through ombudsmanship, education, uniformity and consistency.

**Fire Safety Officer training (FSO)**

The OSFM has certified over 300 new fire safety officers in California last year. This FSO training is becoming the standard throughout California for educational requirements for safety officers working on a movie set.

**Firemen's Fund Insurance Heritage Program**

Through its "Heritage Program," Firemen's Fund Insurance, the largest insurance provider for the motion picture industry has nominated the OSFM to be awarded a grant to enhance training efforts in the motion picture and entertainment area. If awarded, these funds would be used for updating equipment and providing classes to the California fire service. Firemen's Fund Insurance believes this partnership will have significant effects on safety within the motion picture industry.

**MOU between Cal OSHA and OSFM**

A Memorandum of Understanding regarding pyrotechnic use in the motion picture industry has been drafted between the Division of Occupational and Health Safety Administration (Cal OHSA) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal and is currently undergoing its final review. This MOU will minimize duplication of effort between the two departments and is necessary to preserve the goals of both agencies.



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